

# Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

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HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL

## Committees choose new superintendent

Interim South Hadley superintendent tapped for position

By Peter Spotts

After deliberating for three and a half hours, South Hadley Public Schools Interim Superintendent Diana Bonneville was unanimously selected by the five Hampshire Regional School District School Committees to be the district's next Superintendent.

Bonneville's experience guiding South Hadley through COVID-19, after stepping up and taking the job as interim in December of 2019, was a crucial factor in setting her apart from the other three finalist candidates. During that time, she participated in a full budget process and also participated in union negoti-

**SUPERINTENDENT**, page 11



South Hadley Interim Superintendent Diana Bonneville, right, was voted by the five school committees of the Hampshire Regional District to be the district's new superintendent on Monday, March 29. Bonneville is pictured shaking South Hadley School Committee Chair Kyle Belanger's hand during a meeting in Dec. 2019.

File Photo by Melina Bourdeau

WILLIAMSBURG

## Relief Fund keeps businesses afloat

By Peter Spotts

The Hilltown COVID-19 Relief Fund is helping inject \$250,000 to the businesses, artists, nonprofits, and farmers of the hilltowns and the first of several awards was celebrated at the Williamsburg Snack Bar with town and state officials on Monday, March 29.

Sen. Adam Hinds, D-Pittsfield, presented a \$15,000 check to Snack Bar owner Meaghan Dunphy as one of the four recipients Hilltown CDC has made grant awards too out of \$150,000, they have for the hilltowns. An additional \$100,000 is being

**RELIEF**, page 7

CHESTERFIELD

## Museum repairs a critical need

By Shelby Macri

Dee Cinner met with the Selectboard to discuss the Edward's Museum Restoration project options on Monday, March 29.

This project has been discussed the past two to three years, as the building is in need of the proposed restoration. Selectboard Chair Roger Fuller said that the museum has been on the town's list of projects since 2012 when building assessment teams reviewed it and other

**RESTORATION**, page 10

RUSSELL

## Chair resignation slows road project

By Peter Spotts

Drainage work on Pine Hill Road is stagnant as the lack of a chair for the Conservation Commission has prevented the project from getting approval it needs to proceed.

Selectboard Chair Keith Cortis said the commission has three members, but without a chair it's causing issues when it comes to scheduling meetings and making decisions during the Selectboard meeting on March 23.

**RESIGNATION**, page 3



Mike Stewart with grandsons Jack, Brady, and Pat solve a clue at the Huntington Public Library during the Easter Scavenger Hunt last week. The event was organized by the Huntington Recreation Committee. More story on page 2 and more photos on pages 8 and 9.

Submitted photo

WILLIAMSBURG

## Search for Town Administrator begins

By Peter Spotts

Town Administrator Charlene Nardi has been part of the backbone keeping town operations running for almost a decade, but will be leaving in May to pursue a new opportunity as Northampton's finance director.

Nardi took the position in September 2011. The Board of Selectmen made the difficult motion to accept her resignation on Thursday, March 25, effective May 20.

"This is probably one of the hardest things that I've had to do in my job as town administrator," Nardi said. "I have submitted my resignation. My last day here in Williamsburg will be May 20. I just want to say thank you very much to all three of you and former selectboard members. I've learned a great deal and I have great respect for all of you... It's

been an honor and a privilege to serve you and the residents of Williamsburg for so many years."

Selectman Dave Mathers joked the board should make a motion to not allow her to resign. The work she's done for the town over the years has been vital and they will miss her.

"I wish we were in a position to offer her the job longevity and benefits and everything, monies, that might've kept her here and it might not of," Mathers said. "The job is very taxing, and she's been working more than 40 hours a week for the entire time she's had this job and been paid less than that."

Chairman Bill Sayre added, "you have, as Dave said, outperformed any and all expectations for this job by a large amount and I have learned so much from work-

**SEARCH**, page 7



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# HILLTOWNS

## VOICES OF SUPPORT



Chester-Blandford Police Chief Tammy Weidhaas shares her message for survivors of domestic violence as part of the Southern Hilltowns Domestic Violence Task Force's Hilltown Voice's campaign to raise awareness and to prevent and end domestic violence. Submitted photo

# CUMMINGTON

## Friday Night Café returns with three new songs

CUMMINGTON — The Friday Night Café has been delivering music throughout the COVID-19 pandemic online until it's safe to gather together again.

The March post is up at The New Rural Advocate website. There are four recorded songs by FNC performers responding to the March theme "Rising." The first is a couplet y Jack Swindlehurst titled "Early Spring." Rick Murnane made an acoustic remix of the title track from his fifth solo record "Rising in the Blue." Steve Philbrick submitted the poem "Have You Heard the Ice Go Out" and One Part Luck submitted "Raise 'em Up."

Friday Night Café adopted a "Lo-Fi" approach as many performers have gone the route of live streaming their performances, or making videos, during COVID-19. Those efforts presented an array of technology challenges including slow hilltown internet, lack of gear, lack of knowledge or experience with gear, and watching on screens. Posting the audio files makes it easier to alleviate some of these difficulties. Depending on the flow, one or a few recordings will be sent out on Fridays.

Once again, this is brought to the community by the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe that music can be a powerful force for building community. All FNC songs are posted online at newruraladvocate.com.

# HUNTINGTON

## NORWICH HILL

The First Congregational Church of Huntington reminds everyone even though our physical doors are closed until further notice, we are most definitely open for worship, praise, ministry, and fellowship. We are an Open and Affirming Church inviting, welcoming, and affirming everyone — seekers, believers, and wonderers alike — on their journey of faith, to join in 10 a.m. Zoom Sunday worship.

This Sunday is Easter Sunday. Our reading from Mark 16:1-8, invites us to hear the resurrection story through the eyes of those who were really not expecting resurrection at all and to wonder if we expect it and what it may look like in our lives.

On Thursday, April 1, we will have a Maundy Thursday Service of scripture, candlelight, and communion at 7 p.m. by Zoom as we remember the passion of Christ and look forward to the dawning of Easter joy.

The pastor is always available to speak with you. If you do not receive our emails and would like to connect with our Zoom worship service and/or fellowship time, please contact Pastor Carol at firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com to receive the information you will need to participate or send us a message on Facebook.

Please use the phone numbers and email address provided to stay in touch or to contact the pastor. You are also invited to find us on Facebook at "Norwich Hill" for updates, information, and spiritual encouragement. For more information, please contact 413-667-3935 or 860-798-7771 or firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com.

## Scavenger Hunt was a big hit

By Shelby Macri

HUNTINGTON — The Recreation Committee held a scavenger hunt for Easter that residents could participate in at their leisure last week.

The Scavenger hunt was concluded on Sunday, March 28, but was held during the week prior so families and children had plenty of time and chances to find all the clues for the scavenger hunt and solve a riddle as well. The committee handed out goodie bags to those who signed up and completed the scavenger hunt, they handed the goodie bags out at the library for a drive through option.

"Committee member Melissa Green came up with the idea to have a town scavenger hunt and spearheaded the project," Rec Committee member Vicki Mayhew said. "They made most of the clues, hung them on wooden bunnies through town, and assembled all the easter baskets."

Each child received a basket with a chocolate bunny, chocolates, stuffed animals, and activities. She said about 20 families participated with 35 children total, ages ranging from 10 months to 11 years old.

There were 11 clues placed around town that families had to find. These clues were typed out and placed on wooden bunny signs in various parts of town. Each bunny clue provided a letter for the riddle and a fun blurb about the area, building, or business where the clue was located.

Additionally, Mayhew said the businesses in town were more than happy to participate in the event, allowing the committee to hang the clues outside or within their businesses. Clues were located at Main Street Styles, Gateway Farm and Pet, Pettis Field playground, the ball field, Stanton Hall, the Library, and The Village Closet.

The scavenger hunt was well received as Mayhew has received feedback from parents saying they had fun participating in the event too; the committee is considering on continuing this tradition annually and possibly doing a similar activity at a different time of the year. They're also getting ready for their upcoming event, the summer camp for Huntington residents.

"As we are not ready to go back to the traditional way we held camp, we are planning to have a combination of virtual camp with arts and crafts we supply and in person activities once a week," Mayhew said. "Such as hiking, meeting at Pettis field, and small field trips with parent involvement. We are still in planning stages and watching the progress of the opening phases." Mayhew added committee is trying to stay active and engaged with the community, and she feels the committee has been successful with the new ideas they've introduced to work COVID-19.

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### Heavy Construction / Civil Site Work Company seeking an experienced full time Class A driver.

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RUSSELL

WHOA breaks March attendance records

RUSSELL — On Saturday, March 20, Mia Santos-Izyk, director of the Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures, reported the attendance records for the March 20, 2021 WHOA, were, “totally smashed.” The day’s events included over 15 different activities at the Moses Scout Reservation’s 1300-acre camp, where 130 participants bested WHOA’s previous numbers of 121 back in 2019.

Although the recent warm weather signaled the end of WHOA’s ice fishing and snowshoeing, it did invite the return of WHOA’s field sports with the reopening of the archery and rifle ranges. Additionally, although the ice fishing was gone, anglers were still able to “dip their lines” into the camp’s popular bluegill fishing pond.

The lack of snow proved both a disappointment and a blessing. A disappointment for those hoping to go snowshoeing and a blessing for those taking the mile long hike to the “Top O’ Hill” maple sugaring shack. The WHOA participants’ mile long trek to the shack was made easier with the absence of snow. Fortunately, the reward remained the same with the Andrews family’s generosity of maple sugar treats and barbecue.

Rounding out some of the other reopened outdoor activities were the bouldering wall and the disc golf course with tomahawk throwers hitting the bullseye at the tomahawk range. The unusually mild weather also brought out the kite fliers, geocaching and the nature scavenger hunt bingo players. Those not wishing to spend all their time outdoors were welcomed into the blacksmith shop to fashion beam hooks out of red hot steel, or challenge their brains with the escape rooms, compete in magic card tournaments or talk to folks around the world at the WHOA amateur radio station.

Although pre-pandemic WHOA attendance was typically in excess of one hundred people, the more restrictive COVID-19 restrictions keep the attendance down to a maximum of 85 participants. However, the recently revised regulations allowed WHOA to achieve a new maximum for guests. Even with the state’s new changes, the remaining COVID regulations were strictly enforced by the WHOA staff with prepay/preregistration, sanitizing stations, masking, social distancing requirements and more.

Each month Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures presents activities taking advantage of the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation’s 1300-acre camp, located a few minutes from I-90 Exit 3, at 310 Birch Hill Road in Russell. The next WHOA will be on April 24.

RESIGNATION

from page 1

“We had the chairman of the Conservation Committee, after many years of service decide to retire, which left three members, and none of the three want to be the chair and we’re having kind of a dilemma,” Cortis said. “The Pine Hill Road project can’t move forward without the Conservation Committee.”

The project is funded by a 2019 Community Development Block Grant for \$802,979. Administrative Assistant Nancy Boersig said the grant covers the project from start to finish and the town hope the project can go out to bid for the summer construction season.

“It takes a while because they had put an RFP out for an engineer, then the engineer was hired, the engineer has done his work,” she said. “Now the engineer has the plans. That’s where they need conservation to look over the plans for how they’re going to solve the drainage problem. Then they’ll go out for bids on construction.”

Cortis said he’s talked to the state about providing some guidance for the committee and is waiting to hear back from the committee members on if an arrangement will work for them.

Boersig said the state could help walk the committee through its processes, but not make any decisions for them.

“We’ll see what happens. Hopefully, we can get them to have a meeting and decide,” Cortis said. “We’ve got to at least have a contact person; someone that can field the calls and bring them questions forward.”

The board was asked by a member of the public if it’s possible for the selectmen to fill in for vacancies on the Conservation Commission.

“The dilemma is we have to go back and figure out when our commis-

sion it was created, how it was created, and the wording when it was created because unless there’s certain wording in there, the selectmen cannot be an alternate,” Cortis said.

The Selectboard is currently waiting to hear back from the current Conservation Commission members on if they’d like the state to help guide them through meetings. The Commission will need to make decisions on their own, but the state can help get the meeting scheduled and guide them through the steps needed to get to decision points.

MONTGOMERY

EAGLE EYE



A Bald Eagle was sighted along Main Road in Montgomery on Monday, March 29. Submitted photo by Pam Reil

Holy Week services continue through Easter Sunday, April 4

RUSSELL — The Holy Family Parish holy week continues tonight and concludes Easter Sunday, April 4.

Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper Transfer of the Eucharist begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 1. Please bring any type of bell, all bells will be rung during the Gloria.

Friday, April 2, Good Friday, will feature the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord with readings, Veneration of the Cross by bowing, and Communion Service at 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 3, will be the Easter Vigil Liturgy with Service of Light, Procession, Proclamation, Readings, Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Eucharist starting at 7:30 p.m. Please bring any type of bell, all bells will be rung during the Gloria. No candles will be handed out due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The week culminates with the Mass of Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 4. Services will begin at 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.

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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Country Journal please email countryjournal@turley.com.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Outlook Farm, Rte. 66, Westhampton, MA

Butcher

Meat Cutter for our Butcher shop. We are looking for an experienced butcher, the job includes the following: cutting, packaging, pricing and displaying chicken, beef and pork products as well as sausage making. This position is full time.

Grill Cook

Grill cook with short order experience for our breakfast and lunch menu. The position is part to full time and includes weekends, 6am to 2pm and 7am to 3pm. Responsibilities include executing delivery of our menu items in a consistent and timely manner, preparation of all items needed to produce the menu and the maintenance of space and equipment. We are looking for an organized, clean and reliable individual to join our team.

Farm Labor

Full time with up to 50 hours a week. Work includes brush removal, hand mowing, hand thinning of fruit and harvesting in orchards. It also includes ground prep, planting, hoeing, and harvest in vegetables. The work includes lifting, bending and days in hot summer sun. Employees are needed from the middle of March/April 1st through October into November. Come join our team and help produce a bountiful crop this 2021 season.

Clerk/Cashier

Sales clerks for our Eatery and Delicatessen. The position has both part and full time hours available for 6am-2pm/8am to 3pm/10am to 6pm shifts. We are looking for reliable, clean and responsible individuals with customer service experience.

Baker

Full time, experienced Baker, for both weekday and weekend shifts of 6am to 2pm and 7am to 3pm. The position includes preparation of pastries, breads, cookies, pies, etc. and the maintenance of space, inventory and equipment. We are looking for an organized, creative and reliable individual to join our team.

Resumes/Inquiries to Outlookfarm@yahoo.com



# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN

# The truth about peanuts

Well, they certainly have a holiday for everything these days. Recently, when doing some research on an topic completely unrelated to horticulture, I learned that April 2 is National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day. Now I enjoy a good PB & J sandwich, and PB & J stood for the initials Paul, (ro)Berta and Jen back in my college days, but really, a holiday? Regardless, let's have some fun and take a look at half of this holiday fav from a horticulture perspective.

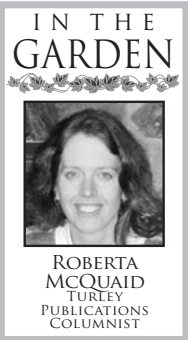
I had a childhood friend who actually grew peanuts here in the northeast. It was really neat to dig them up and eat them right from her garden! Who even knew they grew underground? I am dating myself when I say that all the hullabaloo was partly because we, at the time, had president by the name of Jimmy Carter whose family was in the business of growing peanuts. Why don't you take a trip down Memory Lane with me as I look back on peanut culture, Ware-style!

If my memory serves me correctly, Mrs. Haley received fresh, raw peanuts still in their shell through a mail-order company. She carefully shelled them and planted them about a six inches apart from one another in her sunny garden after the danger of frost had passed. The key to growing peanuts is providing loose, crumbly soil. It's interesting that the plants flower above ground, but just as the petals of the flower fall away, stalks below the ovary of the flower called "pegs" lengthen, causing the stem to fall to the ground. When they fall, the pegs make their way into the soil and form the peanut. It's suggested that once the plants reach about six inches tall, a gentle cultivation should be performed to make it easier for the pegs to penetrate the earth. After they have done so, hilling as you would potatoes is beneficial, as is providing a loose mulch such as chopped leaves, straw or the like to keep the area friable and moist.

You'll know it's time to harvest when the plant yellows; don't wait too long after this point or the peanuts may break from the plant, making harvest more difficult. Carefully unearth the whole plant with a shovel, shake away as much soil as you can and dry upside down out of the weather. An attic, barn or other well-ventilated area is ideal for this purpose. Peanuts can be shelled and enjoyed raw, or roasted in or out of the shell at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. High in protein and fat, and various healthy nutrients, peanuts are a staple in the diets of many cultures.

You many find it interesting to learn that peanuts are not really a nut at all, but a legume. In fact, young plants will be very reminiscent of pea seedlings. They are thought to have originated in South America over three thousand years ago. Valued then as both a food source and status symbol, peanuts were even used as currency for a time. That's humorous, considering the phrase "working for peanuts" implies quite the opposite status!

Peanuts are a long season crop, requiring



IN THE GARDEN  
ROBERTA MCQUAID TURLEY  
PUBLICATIONS COLUMNIST

GARDEN, page 5



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# The importance of personal consent in 2021

Does personal "consent" have value anymore? Computer programs require your consent before loading. Wheel and mechanic shops require consent forms to do the desired work. In the U.S. Declaration of Independence, we read; "Governments... deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed..." Do D.C. politicians and bureaucrats understand that? We have heard these requests for consent so long that the term has dulled our hearing.

Consent has to do with corporal and spiritual contracts, and if heed is not taken, we will find we have given away our best, forever. This was so with the Bible's Esau, eldest son of Abraham, who lost his first-place inheritance to his younger brother's frivolous and stupid request, Gen. 27.

Corporations — with their rational secularism — understand this dance of stealing the best from the dim-witted and naïve. The Elite know that there are rules to the Game of Thrones — that God or gods or the "Force" watches over. Hence, we must consent to a mortgage rate and terms, a surgeon's knife, and its chancy outcome, and yes, even receiving immunization. Where did the Corporations get that idea from? Well, it was from the ancient Sumerian culture and what the gods would allow in business practices; and from the Bible when God instructs the people whom he led out of Egypt, on agreeing to, or not agreeing to, following him. Yes, even God of the Bible will not steal or usurp a person's sovereign

"yes" or "no." "Choose ye this day who you will serve" [Jos.24:15]. So, this is a very important gift a person holds.

When we consent, we give away a bit of our corporal and spiritual self. Consent is directly related to freedom and slavery. Yet, with every page we open on the web, up pops a window that says, "Can we collect," "can we place this on your computer," or "by agreeing to this you promise to..." But most people don't know what they have just promised. Cartel corporations do not desire our money. They want our freedom, and they want us to give it away at the click of a mouse and it will become law, and your lawyer, your friends, even God cannot, nor will not, stop the process, because we have consented. It is a commodity totally held by our person — a serious business that the technologies industry has made into a game.

And what do we read in the select business and news journals these days? No less that billionaires say the world is too complex for common people to understand, so the elite promise to feed us when hungry, and give everyone a job, and provide for our health, etc. The elite are playing God. If we allow corporate global rule, might they limit our family size, employment, residence, length of life, because we gave away our freedom of consent? We didn't consent in the late 1890s. Why would we today?

Frank J. Verderber  
Russell

# Do our politicians need term limits?

As the cancel culture continues to erode our country's history, we turn to Congress for some kind of leadership. What we are seeing is they are not paying attention, instead they are busy creating more and more laws against the American people.

The same Congress have been there so long they forgot who put them there to begin with. They went to Congress to represent the people. Now they represent the party. The House of Representatives makes up laws that either controls or regulates the people and or businesses. The proof is in this "HR 1 or the equality act." If you can read this bill, you will find it deceptively claims to secure equal rights, but threatens the liberties of millions of people who disagree with the left's gender ideology. The bill now moves to a split senate where a few centrists voted in support of it the last time it was introduced. Hopefully, they will rethink it this time.

When I was young, my parents were staunch democrats. I even work on JFK's campaign committee in my youth. That was when we believed it was the party of the people. Now we have to wonder what happened. Then we look at the makeup of congress, they are all career politicians: Pelosi 33 year, Neal 31 years, McConnell 35 years, Chris Smith 39 years, Doug Young 47 years, Schumer 21 years, 70 representatives and senators with over 25 years, 16 with over 30 years and three with over 40 years.

Democrats 49 people, Republicans 21.

Nationwide, 91% of Republicans, 80% of Democrats, 81% of Independents, 87% of men, and 81% of women support term limits. Arguments for are: 1. Brings fresh blood into elected offices, prevents lawmakers from amassing too much power and becoming disconnected from their constituents; 2. These Politicians regard their work as a career rather than a temporary assignment. And spend too much fundraising for their next election. 3. End the huge advantage incumbents have through name recognition and fundraising ability. 4. Diminishes the influence of lobbyists and special interests by reducing entrenched relationships with officials. 5. Prevents deadwood from remaining in office. 6. Encourages younger, minority and other aspirants to run for office. 7. Easier to defeat a well-entrenched incumbent. 8. Term-limited legislators will move quickly and try to form coalitions with other new members to get legislation passed. 9. They will likely be more technologically savvy than long term members who rely on their staff to do tech work. 10. There will be a greater voter turnout if people feel there is a real race going on and their votes can count."

The Cons are: 1. Takes choices away from voters by preventing qualified can-

LIMITS, page 5

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

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Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.



OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Getting to the Bottom of It

By Deborah Daniels

Are you planning some quality time with soil now that spring is sprung? Have you wondered about those contraptions parked in many front yards around the hilltowns? Those are the early plows, rakes and harrowers that once tilled the land. The first plows were powered by our ancestors two legs and then horses and donkeys pulled the plows. Then it was discovered you could sit and plow and life got easier. The first plow seats were made of cast iron, initially solid iron seats. Rainwater pooled in it and hot weather roasted the metal seat. Bolting those seats onto the plow must have been an interesting challenge. Suffice to say no one was falling asleep while in the plow seat.

So, vented iron seats quickly replaced the solid seats. These seats were made by carving a wooden block into a mold and pouring the hot molten iron into it. So, the fretwork or open slots for air circulation were carved into it as well. Craftsmen took pride in making one seat at a time. These early seats were a thing of beauty. They were made by blacksmiths or in small factories. They were made from 1860 until 1900 and some sources quote until 1920. Most of these were made in shops made of wood that burned down, frequently ending the business. So, the history of unmarked seats is hard to trace. However bigger plow makers figured out how to carve their names into seats and the competition was on. Oh, and don't call them tractor seats because they are implemented seats; they predated the motorized tractors. They were used on horse drawn implements such as planters, reapers, binders and hay rakes.

Is it a surprise that these seats are valued by collectors? The Cast Iron Seat Collectors Association was formed in 1971 in Kansas. They have a lot of fun showing the antique seats and competing for the best in show for painted seats, best restored seats and the best ornately



A primitive plow taken in Montgomery.  
Submitted photos be Deborah Daniels

patterned seats. They assess the value of old seats by recording the price paid for every vintage seat sold at auction. They thrill to exchange trade details such as how seats were anchored to the equipment so some could be slid forward to have the blade reach the proper depth to plow while counterbalanced by the farmer's weight. Farmers were known to keep a favorite seat to reattach to other farm equipment rather than get new. Did this give new meaning to branding a farmer? Did you know the John Deere logo, a running deer runs from right to left and if your seat design goes the other way it is a forgery!

Those World War scrap drives swallowed up a lot of vintage plow seats which by that time were being replaced by tractors with stamped steel seats and padding. Hitting rocks and ground hog holes while seated in the plow seat, would no longer be the sport it once was for farmers. Go get your hands dirty and plant something for Spring. Or you could hike to another unsolved crime scene from the past, see photo of this truck's last trip to despair found in the woods of Indian Hollow.

Do you have a memory or historical curiosity from the Hilltowns that you'd like to share with your neighbors? Send your story and photos to [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com).



A tractor seat found while hiking in the hills.



A vintage truck in the woods of Indian Hollow.



A primitive rake and tractor seat in Huntington.



A horse drawn iron seated plow.  
Online Image

Will inheritance money affect my Social Security?

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty: I will turn 66 this year and am considering claiming my Social Security. I have already applied for Medicare. My parents passed on several years ago, and the estate will probably settle this year. I would like to know if my inheritance money will have any effect on my Social Security benefits. If so, how? Signed: Wondering Heir

Dear Wondering: No, your inheritance money from your parents' estate will not affect your gross Social Security benefit in any way. Your monthly Social Security benefit is based solely on your

lifetime earnings record from working, and income from other sources is not counted when computing your Social Security benefit amount. But if you claim your benefits and have your Medicare Part B premium deducted from your Social Security payment, it's possible your inheritance could affect your Medicare Part B premium amount, thus lowering your net Social Security payment.

Most Medicare beneficiaries pay a standard premium of \$148.50 per month (2021 amount) for Part B, which is coverage for doctors and other outpatient ser-

vices. But there is also a special provision known as "IRMAA" (Income Related Medicare Adjustment Amount) which adds a supplemental amount to the standard Part B premium if your "provisional income" from all sources exceeds certain levels. Your "provisional income" would include income from all sources, including any money you receive from an inheritance, any tax-advantage investment withdrawals, tax-free interest, and half of the Social Security benefits you received during the tax year. The name for this is your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income" (MAGI), and the clip levels which cause

IRMAA to affect your Medicare premium are different depending on your IRS filing status.

If you file your income tax as "married/jointly" and your MAGI is over \$176,000, then IRMAA will apply and you'll pay a higher Medicare premium thus reducing your net Social Security payment (if you file as a single, the clip level is \$88,000). IRMAA can cause your Part B premium to go to anywhere from \$208 to \$505 per month, depending upon how high your MAGI is. Note that your Medicare premium for the current year

SECURITY, page 14

GARDEN

from page 4

about 120 days to mature. Many northern gardeners pre-start them indoors to get a jump on the growing season using a variety such as Early Spanish that matures earlier than other types.

Here's what the experts recommend: Shell the fresh peanuts carefully, keeping the thin papery covering intact. Place three "seeds" in a four-inch pot filled two-thirds of the way up with moist potting soil. Add the remaining soil and place in a warm location until they sprout. Provide decent light and plant outside after the danger of frost

has passed and proceeding as recommended above. Don't over fertilize in either case or you will get lots of foliage and few peanuts.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

LIMITS

from page 4

didates from seeking reelection. 2. Available statistics do not bear out the assumption that women and minorities will have an increased chance to participate under term limits, other factors, such as reapportionment, redistricting, and changing demographics, may have greater impact 3. Allows politicians to avoid dealing with long term issues such as infrastructure, that they won't be around to claim credit for. 4. Officials are less experienced making them more dependent on lobbyists, non-elected staffers, and policy wonks, putting public business into the hands of non-elected people. 5. Increases polarization because it reduces the relationships and experience that allow for coalition building and compromise necessary for governing. 7. Term

limits already exist — they are called elections."

I know we have a representative government; my idea is the elected officials are there to represent the people who elected them, not to govern them. I forget who the founding father was that said, "that government works best for the people, when it passes no law." In the past 40 years more laws were passed to restrict our freedom than were to keep our freedom.

There are many reasons why I am not a democrat, and just as many why I am not a republican. I am a conservative, and I try to see both sides. It is not easy.

Ted Cousineau  
Blandford



BLANDFORD

Additional fiber borrowing approved, reimbursement anticipated

By Mary Kronholm

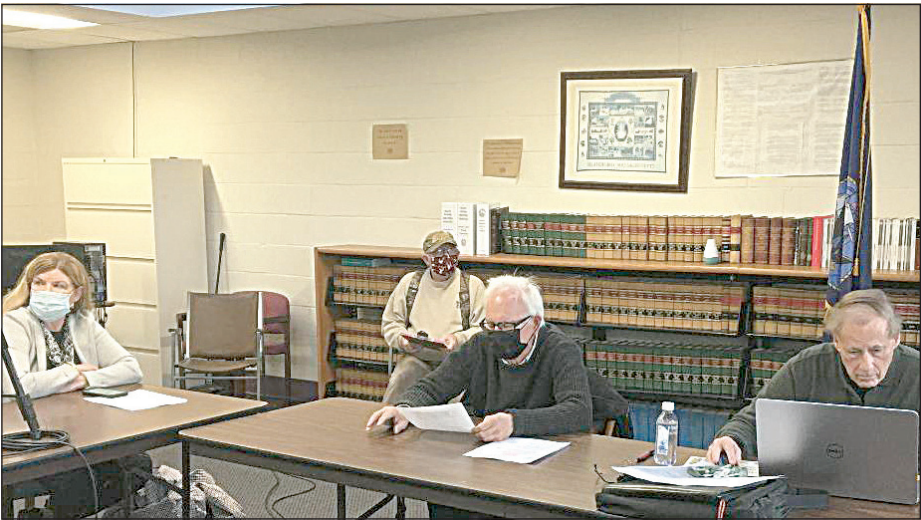
BLANDFORD – The Municipal Light Plant Board met with the Select Board Monday evening to discuss their financial procedures for fiber optic costs. The upshot was that the town will be prepared to authorize an additional \$500,000 borrow as a safety net.

The state will reimburse the town for costs once the MLP has spent existing funds already borrowed, but according to MLP Chair Peter Langmore, that will not happen until next fiscal year, “when all accounts are activated.” That is why the town will seek additional borrowed money in anticipation of reimbursement. The town has already borrowed \$1.7 million of which \$917,000 remains.

Everything is being done so as not to impede progress according to Finance Committee Chair Janet Lombardo.

June Massee and Kim Bergland are also on the MLP.

The board approved moving forward with negotiating with GZA



From left, MLP members June Massee, Kim Bergland, and Chair Peter Langmore. TJ Cousineau is seated in the rear.

Photo by Mary Kronholm

GeoEnvironmental, Inc. a consulting firm that hopes to offer creative solutions to rehab the existing Town Common and Veterans’ Park at Town Common including restructuring access to Route 23

from North Blandford Road and restoring the pathway through the pines from the Historical Society to the Meeting House memorial.

The board also made an appoint-

ments and reappointments to the Board of Registrars. Those who will serve are Co Cousineau, new, and returning Registrars are Margit Mikuski and Bob Twyman.

As Trustees of Watson Park, the board approved moving forward on repairs to the stone wall at the park that crumbled as a result of an old tree. This is near the driveway of the adjacent Hebert property.

Most of the meeting was spent reviewing the preliminary fiscal 2022 budget as recommended by Garcia working with the Finance Committee. Garcia said he wanted to level fund the budget and not increase the tax rate for next year. The preliminary operating budget is estimated to be just over \$4,007,000.

Finance Committee Chair Janet Lombardo said she expects there will be some changes prior to the annual informational meeting, or the Mini-Town Meeting, when the budget is presented to the town. This meeting is held prior to the Annual Town Meeting to answer any questions or concerns about the budget.

ROYAL VISIT



A Bald Eagle perches in a tree near Wanda Deitner's driveway in Blandford on Saturday, March 27.

Submitted photo by Margit Mikuski

Dog licenses expire May 1

BLANDFORD — The new 2021 dog licenses are in and available at the Town Clerk’s office. All 2020 licenses expire on May 1.

All dogs over six months old are required to have a current license. Proof of rabies vaccination is required. Fees are \$5 for neutered males and spayed females and \$10 non-neutered males and unsplayed females.

For more information, contact the Town Clerk at 413-848-4279, ext. 203 or townclerk@townofblandford.com.

Rabies clinic to be held on April 24

BLANDFORD — Blandford Animal Hospital will be hosting a Rabies Clinic on Saturday, April 24, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Hospital located at 46 Woronoco Road in Blandford.

Please bring each pets’ current rabies certificate. All cats must be in carriers and dogs must be leashed. Shots will be \$20 per shot. Any questions may be directed to the Animal Hospital at 413-848-2057.

BOUNDARY LINE



Liz Massa and Ronnie visit the boundary stone post on the Blandford-Tolland town line.

Submitted photo

CHESTER

CAR TROUBLE



Russ LaPierre found a truck with a few operation issues on Old South Worthington Road in Chester.

Submitted photo

Search for Easter Eggs Saturday, April 24

CHESTER — The Chester Recreational Committee and the Chester Hill Association are co-sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt for local children on Saturday, April 3, at 1 p.m. at Emery Field.

Children should bring their own Easter basket or bag for their eggs. The Easter bunny will be making an appearance as well. Light refreshments will be served. All health and safety protocols will be followed to protect the safety of all participants. In case of rain or inclement weather, the activity will be held the following Saturday,

April 10, at the same time.

Any questions may be directed to Jason Forgue anytime at 413-205-6504.



Local student named to Dean’s List

CHESTER — Grace LeBarron was named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List at Wheaton College.

She has a double major of elementary education and psychology.



# WILLIAMSBURG



## Join congregation for Easter sunrise service

WILLIAMSBURG — The First Congregational Church in Williamsburg will have two in-person worship services this Easter. The first will be a Sunrise Service gathering in the Village Hill Cemetery at 6:25 a.m. on Sunday, April 4.

The second service will be either on the church’s front lawn or, if the weather is not too good, under the tent in the field behind the Anne T. Dunphy School at 10 a.m. Attendees should bring their own chairs. There will be social distancing

and mask wearing so everyone can gather safely to celebrate Easter. These services will also be live-streamed and recorded on Facebook and YouTube under First Congregational Church of Williamsburg.

### SEARCH

from page 1

ing with you, things I didn’t even know I didn’t know I’ve learned. It’s been great and those things I’ve learned have been on a technical job issue related and personally, so working with you has been a real pleasure. Nardi came to Williamsburg after several years’ experience as town administrator in Chesterfield. Her favorite part has been “The people — fabulous town employees and officials. They are smart, dedicated and committed. The residents – kind, caring and involved.” “[I’ll miss] the unknown job changes day to day; you may have a plan for your day, but something inevitably comes up and you don’t even get to think about those things,” she said. Nardi said one of the most challeng-

ing parts of the job was procurement for projects. “Massachusetts law prescribes a specific process for buying items or procuring firms to do work — it states the lowest bidder,” Nardi said. “The lowest bidder is not always the best thing for the town.” Looking back on her time, one of the projects she’s most proud of being part of is the renovations for the Anne T. Dunphy Elementary School. “[I] started that as Chair of the School Committee, member of the Building Committee and finished as Town Administrator,” Nardi said. “We brought in a contractor for IT — so standardized our technology and confirmed backups — brought in a VoIP phone

system, [I] was part of a great team of department heads and officials.” The board will be looking to assemble a search committee to handle the process of hiring a new town administrator to replace Nardi. They will not be looking for an interim, especially with Chesterfield needing a new town administrator as well. “I am not in favor of interim. I think we should go right out and get someone,” Selectman Denise Banister said. “I know that I might be excluding some people, but I would like someone local. I think if that person would know our town or if it was somebody from a surrounding town, that would be good, but I’d hate to get somebody from the eastern part of the state or something.”

Nardi recommended the board have someone with job hunting experience on the committee and will also be providing a summary of her different duties to help with the job posting. Applications for the Town administrator position will be due by 6 p.m. on Friday, April 6. Whichever direction the town goes in the future, Nardi is comfortable with the hand’s town operations will be in when she’s gone. “I think Williamsburg is well poised moving forward,” she said. “You have great department heads, I think you have strong leaders in the community, I think you’re all awesome; I think it’s going to be good.” For more information on the position or to apply, visit [burgy.org](http://burgy.org).

### RELIEF

from page 1

administered by the Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association. “We’re in a really challenging moment,” Hinds said. “It means a lot to be here and take a moment to acknowledge we need to support each other to get through this.” Hinds said the state budget had an opportunity for the Representatives and Senators to get creative and open a door for small businesses hurting across the Commonwealth to get the relief they need. Dunphy, who was in the process of purchasing the Snack bar prior to COVID-19, gained official ownership last July and was exempt from many grants due to not owning the business before the pandemic started. She was concerned about needing to close the popular Burgy dining destination without this relief money. “It’s made it so we can get out of the hole...and hopefully move forward,” Dunphy said. “It made it so I could pay off a lot of back debt so we can continue to receive propane and continue to receive food...I’m just really grateful it was able to work out.” Hilltown CDC Executive Director Dave Christopolis worked with Hinds

to secure the \$250,000 for the hilltowns of Massachusetts. HCDC is administering the grant and vetting applications to determine who needs the money most, and how much they receive. “We know the businesses in the hilltowns. They know us. We’re neighbors,” Christopolis said. “There’s people definitely in need of help and it’ll be interesting to see how people [move forward].” He also thanked Hinds and First Franklin District Rep. Natalie Blais, D-Sunderland, for their work to help get the funding. “Rural areas have really suffered from this pandemic. I think it just really impressive you were able to find some funding...for the government to be able to recognize the hilltowns for what it is,” Christopolis said. “I really appreciate this partnership.”

In addition to the Snack Bar, Camp Howe received \$12,000, the Jacob’s Ladder Business Association received \$4,500, and Davenport Daycare received \$15,000. There were 19 applications during the first week Hilltown CDC was accepting them, so there is more assistance to be awarded with amount ranging from \$4,500 to \$15,000. “We still have more money to give out,” said Hilltown CDC Director of Finance and Administration Denise LeDuc. Applications for the COVID-19 relief grant are currently closed, but may open in the future if there’s still funding available. The Hilltown COVID-19 Relief Fund was available to businesses, nonprofits, artists, and farmers in the towns of Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Granville,

Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Plainfield, Russell, Williamsburg, Worthington. However, HCDC is accepting applications for its Microenterprise Relief Program, which supports businesses with five or fewer employees. The program will provide one-time grants for business owners who need financial assistance to support business operational costs in order to keep the business sustainable. Grant funds must be used within two months of award. Applications are now being accepted. Funding will be awarded based on a first come, first eligible, completed application basis, subject to the availability of funding. Grant amounts will range from a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$10,000 to cover business losses incurred after May 10, 2020. Eligible towns include Ashfield, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Plainfield, Williamsburg and Worthington. For more information on the COVID-19 Relief Fund, MRP, or other HCDC initiatives and assistance, visit [hilltowncdc.org](http://hilltowncdc.org).

**“Rural areas have really suffered from this pandemic. I think it just really impressive you were able to find some funding...for the government to be able to recognize the hilltowns for what it is.”**  
**Hilltown CDC Executive Director Dave Christopolis**

### NOW HIRING Town of Williamsburg TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Williamsburg, Massachusetts is seeking applicants for a Town Administrator. Williamsburg has a population of approximately 2,500 and an annual operating budget of \$8.29 million. As the chief administrative officer of the Town, the Town Administrator is appointed by and reports to the Board of Selectmen. While working with considerable independence, the Town Administrator performs administrative and supervisory duties coordinating the activities of the departments, commissions, boards, committees, and offices of the Town of Williamsburg, carries out the policies and activities of the Board of Selectmen, and serves as liaison and coordinator among other Town departments and organizations. A Bachelor’s Degree in public administration, business or a related field is required; three to five years of experience in municipal administration, as Town Administrator preferred, or a related field; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Position is 40 hours per week with a minimum of two evenings per month required. Salary is commensurate with experience. A job description and the town application are available on the Town’s website, [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org). Resume, cover letter, and completed town application should be sent to the Williamsburg Town Administrator Search Committee, PO Box 447, Haydenville MA by April 16, 2021 at 5 p.m.

### Heavy Construction / Civil Site Work Company seeking an experienced full time Class B driver

Applicant must have at least two to three years’ operating a tri-axle truck. The truck to operate will be a 2012 Kenworth W900, 18 speed with a 600 HP Cummins engine. Competitive rate of pay is based on experience and licensing. Good references, excellent work and driving history are necessary. This is a full-time position offering very competitive compensation along with a benefit package which includes the following: Partial company paid health insurance; dental insurance, paid time off, paid holidays and we also offer a retirement plan to participate in. We are looking for people with a “Team Attitude” and a desire to excel. We respect our employees and value them as individuals within our family team; you are not just a number. Pre-employment drug and alcohol testing is required once offer of employment is made and employment will be contingent on results. Please send resume or letter of interest you may also email [information@Raymakers.com](mailto:information@Raymakers.com) for an application. *This company is an equal opportunity employer and does not unlawfully discriminate against employees or applicants for employment based on an individual’s race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, veteran status or any other status protected by applicable law. This policy applies to all terms, conditions and privileges of employment, including recruitment, hiring, placement, compensation, promotion, discipline and termination.*



# HUNTINGTON



Kaitlyn Bihler shows off her basket of prizes after collecting them on Sunday, March 28.

Submitted photos



Julia Bertera finds a clue at The Village Closet during the Easter Scavenger Hunt last weekend. The event was organized by the Huntington Recreation Committee.



A clue directs clever hunters to B & D Variety.

**Text messages to boost your child's learning**  
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**Contact Susan LeBarron, Hilltown Family Center Coordinator,**  
**at 413-667-2203 ext. 311 for more info**  
**Check us out on Facebook and Twitter**

Programs are made possible through the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care through the Hilltown Community Health Centers with:





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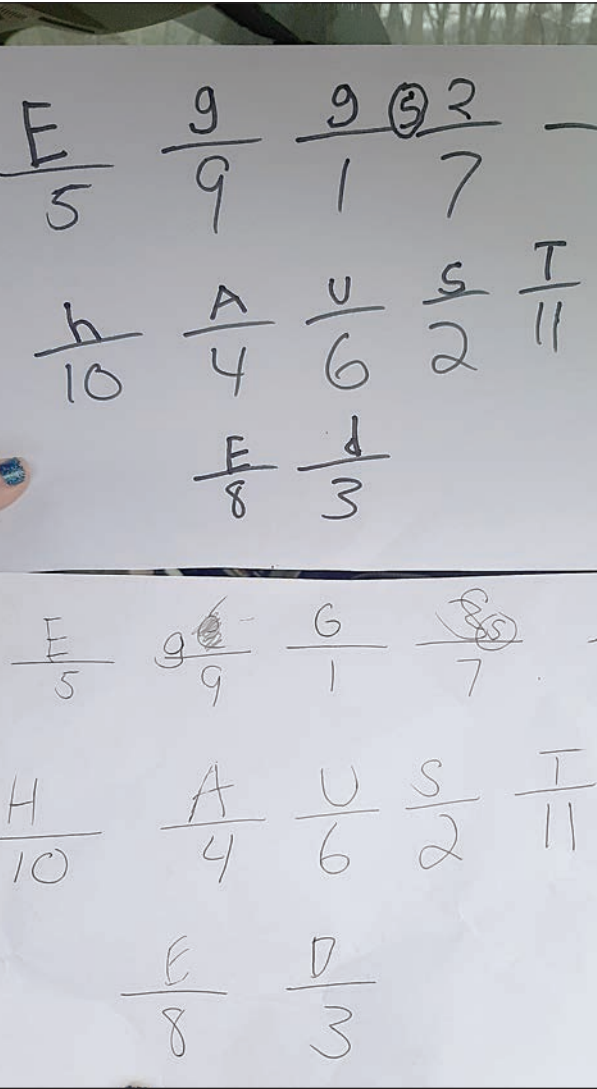
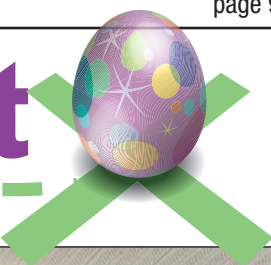


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# Easter Scavenger Hunt



The Koivisto girls answered the riddle “What do you call the Easter Bunny after Easter?”



The final clue was hidden at The Rapids wishing well.



Kaitlyn Bihler points out one of the clues.

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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OTIS

Enjoy weekly online courses at recreation center

OTIS —The Otis Rec Center has a variety of online course offerings which can be joined through the online Facebook group Notice Otis.

Cardio Blast with Heather Bilotta meets on Mondays at 9 a.m. Join this low impact, high results, workout where every fitness level is honored. Participants will be encouraged to listen to their body and respect their fitness level as they increase stamina, energy, and strength. The class scheduled for April 19 is cancelled.

Inspirations with Viktoria Seavey helps viewers jumpstart their day with clear intention, centered inspiration, and positive imagination. Together, they create a space to breathe so that everyone can be their best in these trying times. Join her for motivation and empowerment on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.

Connie Wilson hosts Chair Yoga on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Receive all the

benefits of yoga without getting down on the floor! Participants can build strength, enhance flexibility, range of motion, sit tall with ease, be more comfortable in their body than they ever thought possible.

Wilson also hosts Mat yoga on Saturdays at 10 a.m. Kripalu Yoga, all levels, provides inner focus, meditation, yoga poses, breath work, “development of a quiet mind” and relaxation. The class on April 24 is cancelled.

Join Laura Lin for Dance Your Joy on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. through April 30. Lin takes participants on a movement journey that connects them with their deepest and most essential self. In Dance Your Joy, movement is approached as a healing force. Designed for every body and every experience level; this class embraces movement that guides people toward joy and avoids any movement that causes pain.

Transfer Station closed Easter

OTIS — The Transfer Station will be closed on Sunday, April 4. It will be open on Monday, April 5, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Explore and Play starts Tuesday

OTIS — Otis Explore & Play will take place every Tuesday beginning on April 6, weather permitting, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Join Nina for this caregiver child program. Meet outside behind the Otis Town Hall in the gazebo for stories and songs followed by creative crafts and play. All staff and families will practice social distancing and adhere to Gov. Charlie Baker’s order requiring face masks or cloth face coverings in public places. Please stay home in anyone in a family is sick or has traveled in the 14 days. Extra masks and hand sanitizer will be available at each program.

Historian hosts hike April 17

OTIS — Historian Tom Ragusa is hosting a hike on Knox Trail on Saturday, April 17, in a journey back to the 18th century retracing the steps of 1764 patriot surveyor Nathaniel Austin of Suffield.

The historic Knox Trail was originally an ancient Native American trading path that extended from the Hudson River Valley through the Berkshires. It is best known as a military road that played a crucial role in the Revolutionary War. Earlier this year, the Trail was submitted for consideration for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The rugged Sandisfield section of approximately 4 miles is virtually unchanged.

It was painstakingly mapped by Ragusa after 30 years of research.

The hike will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 17 rain or shine. Participants will meet at the bridge dam at Uppper Spectacle Pond. Access the area via Old Road off Cold Spring Road near Route 23.

Prepare for a rigorous hike through heavy forest where wet conditions are possible; bring appropriate wear, hiking stick, fluids, snacks, etc. The hike will finish where the trail emerges in Otis near Route 8.

To reserve a spot or get more information, contact Ragusa at 413-269-7209 or tommgrapes23@aol.com.

MIDDLEFIELD

Caucus letters of intent due May 16

MIDDLEFIELD — The Town Caucus will take place on May 19 and the Town Clerk needs a letter of intent by May 16 with contact information for those interested in running for a position.

The following positions have an open seat for a three-year term unless otherwise stated: Moderator, one year term; Town Clerk; Cemetery Commission; Selectman; Library Trustee; Finance Committee; Assessor; Constable; School Committee; Planning Board, two seats for three-year terms.

MIDDLEFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Lunch is served at the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, each Wednesday at noon.

A \$3 donation is suggested. Reservations should be made, and meal choice stated, by calling and leaving a message at 413-623-9990 the Monday before. Pick-up and delivery are available. The menu on Wednesday, April 7, is sweet and sour pork, oriental blend, steamed brown rice, pumpernickel bread, and mandarin orange.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Middlefield Congregational Church will resume their regular church services starting Easter Sunday. The Easter Sunday worship will be held at 11 a.m. at the church. The newly ordained Reverend Julia Cahn will replace Pastor Susan Borsella until she is ready to resume her duties again.

Following Easter Sunday, we will continue on our regular schedule of services on the first and third Sunday of each month. The church will be following CDC protocols of masking and social distancing to keep all safe.

Please join us as we celebrate Easter and the fellowship of each other.

News, photo publication policy

As a community newspaper our focus has always been local news. While we try very hard to run upcoming events as a public service whenever space allows, space does not allow us to run an upcoming event repeatedly. Our policy is to limit publication of upcoming events to one article in advance of the event and, space permitting, a second brief reminder article the week prior to an event, and to run those articles in only one section of the paper, and not in multiple sections simultaneously.

All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows.

**Deadline is Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.**



CHESTERFIELD

RESTORATION

from page 1

buildings in town. The building has been in need of replacements and touch ups for years, and the board wants to see this project happen.

The Selectboard planned to add this project to the Annual Town Meeting warrant; There will be three articles related to the museum restoration — the Historical Commission petition, and two options from the Selectboard including a historically accurate option and a reduced maintenance option.

Fuller said there are three articles because they could not meet with the Commission to discuss what they both want; they are providing options to the voters, so no one feels alienated and there are multiple choices available. Fuller shared a spreadsheet of estimated costs for each option of the project, breaking down what had to be done and how much it could cost. While the costs of project are fixed within the commissions petition, the two options from the Selectboard have estimates that are subject to change.

The commission broke down costs in categories of repairs highlighting \$14,590 to replace rotted sills and three collar ties, repairing porch posts, repairing, or replacing fascia and skirtboards, as well as removing and reinstalling windows. Additionally, it will cost \$6,940 to remove clapboards and trim, install a weather barrier, cedar clapboards, and trim; \$7,120 to paint the exterior of the building; and \$8,295 to repair and putty old windows. Another \$3,150 will be needed to repair or replace then paint the wood shutters. Altogether, it’s about \$40,095 for the whole project, though the petition also includes a 15% contingency plan with a total of \$46,110 to be voted on at the ATM.

The Selectboard broke down costs in different categories, including some things that the Historical Commission did not, such as removing roof shingles, installing plywood and new shingles, removing a tree, shrubs, grinding the stump, adding a walkway, re-grading the area to improve drainage, and reseeding. There are also a few similarities to what the commission proposed, though there are also differences in how one thing is done due to the reduced maintenance and historically accurate options.

The historical accurate option includes repairing or replacing wood siding, painting the exterior of the building, installing a weather barrier, and repairing soffits; while the reduced maintenance option included vinyl siding and soffits, vinyl shutters, and vinyl windows. Fuller showed a moving estimate total of \$50-60,000 for the total of either project, though more research and discussions will occur before a total number is confirmed and added to the ATM warrant. Though there are multiple options to consider, the restoration will happen as it’s been need for many years.

“Both the Board and Commission hopes the town will find necessary funding to push this job along, cause it’s in dire need of repair,” Fuller said. “It’s needed to be done, we want it to be done, it’s time to get it done, and I think we’re in agreement so we’re hoping the voters will come together.”

Though these three articles will be on the ATM warrant, no date has been set for the meeting. The board is waiting to see if the guidelines and restrictions will loosen before deciding on a place and way to hold the meeting.

Fuller said last year was not a typical year for the ATM and he doesn’t suspect it’ll be normal this year either, though the town election is scheduled for May 3 as usual. Fuller said it’s harder to gather people in one area rather than the election where people can meet at one place when they’re able to. Residents should keep an eye on the town website for any information on the ATM later this month, as that’s when the Selectboard will need to finalize and post the warrant.



SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Rural schools receive aid from state grant program

State Senator Adam G. Hinds, D-Pittsfield, presented Gateway Regional High School in Huntington and Mohawk Trail Regional High School in Shelburne Falls with the \$3 million allocated to the Rural School Aid grant program in the fiscal 2020 Senate Budget. The grant will bring more than \$1 million to schools in his district.

“Zip-codes should not determine the quality of a child’s education,” said Hinds. “Our rural schools deserve the funding that is critical to their ongoing success and the necessary attention from state leaders.”

Hinds, who represents a largely rural, Western Massachusetts district spanning 52 communities in Berkshire,

Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden Counties, helped make the increase of \$1.5 million in funding possible, totaling an appropriation of \$3 million, for the Commonwealth’s most rural school districts during the 2019-2020 legislative session.

“It was an honor to have Senator Hinds at Gateway to present the update for the Rural School Aid grant program,” said Gateway Superintendent Dr. David Hopson. “The grant program is an important part of our district and the continued success of meeting student needs in our small and rural regional school.”

“We can’t thank Sen. Adam Hinds enough for his continued support and advocacy for rural schools,” said

Mohawk Trail/Hawlemont Regional School Districts Superintendent Sheryl Stanton. “As a Mohawk Trail Regional School alum, Sen. Hinds deeply understands the struggles that our rural schools and towns face. Each year our taxpayers take on more of the heavy lift in supporting our schools; and while we still have a long way to go with leveling the playing field for rural schools, this additional funding is a step in the right direction.”

The Rural School Aid grant program helps school districts with low population densities and lower-than-average incomes address fiscal challenges and take steps to improve efficiency. Administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Rural School Aid

is a source of funding separate from Chapter 70 aid and is intended to supplement the fiscal 2020 operating budgets of eligible school districts.

In order to qualify for Rural School Aid, DESE must determine that a school district meets two requirements: The “rural factor” — student density per square mile of a school district; and Ability to pay — the average per capital income of a school district.

Hinds also called for appointments to the Rural Schools Commission, established by the Student Opportunity Act, which he chairs to move forward. To date only 4 out of 19 Commissioners have been appointed. The Commission aims to make rural school aid permanent.

SUPERINTENDENT

from page 1

ations while navigating the difficult circumstances caused by COVID-19.

“When we go back and look through that whole brochure, this is the closest we’re going to get for what we’re asking for,” said Chesterfield-Goshen Committee Chair Don Willard. “Diana just kept rising to the top... I thought we needed someone with a little more experience, and Bonneville had that hands down.”

“We need to look at these candidates and say who is the best right now for our district and I don’t see anybody who fits better than Diana,” said Trish Colson-Montgomery.

The five committees went into breakout rooms multiple times during the meeting to debate the candidates and try and reach a consensus as all four candidates had committee members ranking them as a top two choice. Anne T. Dunphy Elementary School Principal Stacey Jenkins and Northampton Bridge Street School Principal Beth Choquette also received multiple first place votes from several committee members during the initial straw polling among committees. The fourth finalist was Susan Henrichon, assistant superintendent of

Oxford Public Schools.

“In support of Stacey I have seen through this process and through her leadership in the district she demonstrates strong vision and execution of that vision,” said Westhampton School Committee member Morely Cleary. “I think that’s important in a leader and especially in terms of what our district needs to move forward.”

Westhampton Committee member Wesley Bowser said when making his pros and cons lists of candidates, he struggled to find any cons for Choquette.

“I was impressed with the answers we were getting. A lot of my pros with her, within the frame of the questions she got, blew it out of the water,” he said.

As each round of straw polling continued in 15-to-20-minute segments, guided by Tracy Novik from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, more committee members across the five committees began switching their votes to Diana as the district worked collaboratively to reach a consensus.

“I was the person that had Dr. Choquette as my first choice, but know-

ing it was very, very close between my top choice and Dr. Bonneville,” Southampton’s Austin Rogers said. “She [Bonneville] comes from a position that she’s confident about...She is committed. She wants the next position to stick. I don’t want to do this again in one, two, three years. I want some longevity out of this person.”

“She has the experience, which is the one thing we unilaterally agreed upon as a joint school committee,” said Angela Thompson, a member of the Chesterfield-Goshen Committee. “What we need is someone to provide a supportive environment for staff and students in order to best serve the kids.”

Willard said one of the deciding factors was during the site visit with South Hadley, with multiple people expressing to the Hampshire Regional delegation the district would be lucky to have Bonneville.

“It was really hard question to ask a school committee member and that question had something to do with why isn’t [Bonneville] your superintendent,” Willard said. “The answer we received was ‘we are looking for something

extremely specific and we happened to get what it was’...but every other person at that site visit all reiterated the same thing over and over, that they wanted her to be in their district so badly, they wanted her to be their full-time superintendent, and they were all broken because she was not...I think that meant a lot.”

Following the lengthy debates and discussion, all five school committees made unanimous votes in favor of Bonneville to be the next superintendent pending contract negotiations. Novick made a brief call to Bonneville and informed the committees she “absolutely accepts.”

The committees hope the collaboration exhibited during the selection process is a building block to help bring the district closer together in the future.

“We had great conversations and we weren’t all there at the same time, but we made it there and I really appreciate everyone’s time for the whole process,” said Willard.

“I think this is a sign that we can all come together as more of a community group,” added Southampton’s Jon Lumbra.

WORTHINGTON

Health Center to receive \$1.8 million in rescue funds

WORTHINGTON — The Hilltown Community Health Center announced it will receive \$1.8 million in rescue funds from the federal Health Resources & Services Administration as part of the Biden Administration’s historic \$6 billion investment in community health centers to expand access to

COVID-19 vaccines and other health care services in hardest-hit and highest-risk communities.

As a Federally Qualified Health Center, HCHC’s mission is to create access to high quality integrated health care, regardless of a patient’s ability to pay or health insurance status. It does so through the provision of medical, dental, behavioral health, eye care, and community programs.

“At the core of our mission is a

commitment to meet the needs of our community’s most vulnerable populations,” said Eliza Lake, HCHC’s chief executive officer. “This award will provide critical funding to combat this unprecedented health crisis and enable us to increase our ability to serve the members of our community that are at highest risk.”

The funds may be used for COVID-19 specific efforts, including vaccination, and are targeted to meet the needs of the nation’s most vulnerable communities. Through the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will invest nearly \$10 billion to expand access to vaccines and primary health care through a variety of grants and other programs.

Community Health Centers repre-

sent the nation’s front line in the effort to meet the needs of the country’s most vulnerable populations in communities of color, rural areas, low-income populations, and other underserved communities.

“We are extremely grateful for the Administration’s recognition that creating greater health equity in our highest-risk communities requires supporting and growing community health centers,” said Lake. “These funds will augment HCHC’s ongoing efforts to serve this region, and will allow us to meet the growing health care gaps that have resulted both from the crisis and from the historic inequities of the health care system.”

HCHC will use the one-time funding over the next two years to help pre-

vent, mitigate, and respond to COVID-19 and its effects, and to enhance health care services and infrastructure across its sites.

HCHC is a federally qualified community health center that serves about 10,000 patients at sites in Worthington, Huntington, and Amherst. Founded in 1950, HCHC provides high-quality, award-winning medical, dental, behavioral health, and optometry services, as well as a wide range of community programs, to individuals and families from over 100 ZIP codes in Western Massachusetts. HCHC serves everyone, regardless of ability to pay or insurance status.

For more information about HCHC, please contact CEO Eliza Lake at 413-238-4128 or elake@hchchweb.org.

Attracting birds, butterflies, and other beneficiaries Zoom on April 10

WORTHINGTON — A 90-minute power point presentation, will be offered by naturalist and landscaper John Root on Zoom at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 10.

This program describes the essential roles played by birds, pollinators, and other beneficial wildlife in our ecosystem and provides guidance on meeting their needs for food, cover, and water. A variety of plants that nourish these organisms throughout their lifecycles is discussed,

and organic methods for establishing wildlife habitat are also presented. Handouts will be downloadable, and comments and questions will be welcome at the conclusion of the program. Hosted and cosponsored by the Worthington Public Library.

This program is supported in part by the Worthington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Easter Egg hunt starts search Saturday, April 3

WORTHINGTON — Explore the woods behind Town Hall on Saturday, April 3, to search for easter eggs to celebrate Easter weekend.

The hunt starts at 11 a.m. Masks must be worn at all time, there are no refreshments, and no public restrooms. Plastic eggs will not be collected at the end of the hunt.



# PLAINFIELD



Members of the Plainfield Fire Department fight to control a chimney fire at 71 Gloyd Street last Tuesday, March 23. No residents were injured.

*Submitted photos*



The damage in the aftermath of the chimney fire, which took three hours and mutual aid from five other departments to get under control.

## No residents, firefighters harmed in chimney fire

PLAINFIELD — Last Tuesday, March 23, the Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department was called out a little before 3 a.m. to 71 Gloyd St. for a reported chimney fire. First units on the scene, found a working structure fire with flames showing from the ground to the roof on one side of the structure. Immediately, mutual aid was requested from multiple towns. Two residents and their pets had escaped from the house before first Fire units arrived

on the scene, though one pet, a cat, died in the fire. Power lines to the house had burned off the house and were “live” across the street in front of the home. This blocked direct access for multiple fire vehicles responding to the fire while waiting for the power company to get on the scene and shut down the live wire. Plainfield firefighters attacked the fire both from the exterior and interior to try to stop the fire spread throughout the home, but

the fire had moved into multiple hidden areas and all units were removed from the building and a long difficult exterior attack was again initiated. The fire was brought under control after over three hours. Mutual aid was provided by Cummington, Ashfield, Worthington, Goshen, and Windsor fire departments, Highland Ambulance, as well as Plainfield Police. In addition, the State Fire Marshall was requested to the scene

to determine origination of the fire and a MEMA Rehab truck was also requested to assist firefighters on the scene. Water supply was established via tanker shuttle from multiple sites about two miles from the fire scene. The state fire investigator determined the fire started as a chimney fire that extended into the wood framing of the house. Approximately 30 firefighters responded to the incident. There were no injuries reported.

# GOSHEN

## 2021 Goshen Meltdown block falls through March 29

GOSHEN — The concrete block and flag on Hammond Pond for the 2021 Goshen Meltdown fell through the ice on Monday, March 29, ending the 2021 Goshen Meltdown at 12:16 p.m. Tickets may still be in the mail and anything postmarked after March 29 will be returned. The official winner is expected to be announced later this week. The annual fundraiser proceeds sup-

port the Goshen Firefighters Association this year. The association is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supporting the delivery of fire and emergency services to the Town of Goshen and other communities in the region. For more information about the Meltdown, visit the Meltdown Facebook page or [goshenmafire.com/meltdown](http://goshenmafire.com/meltdown); or contact Bob Labrie at [bslabrie@msn.com](mailto:bslabrie@msn.com) or 413-268-7110.



The concrete block on Hammond Pond fell through the ice at 12:16 p.m. on Monday, March 29.

*Submitted photo by Bob Labrie*

## Sign-up for town trivia by April 16

GOSHEN — Join the Goshen COA for a Trivia Zoom on Friday, April 23, at 1 p.m. In striving to alleviate some of the isolation and boredom we are all experiencing, the Goshen COA is launching Trivia Zoom for all town residents. Participants will have the opportunity to answer questions as in the game of Trivial Pursuit. To make it more interesting, participants will be asked about their lovely town of Goshen, so read up on town history! Trivia will play for about one hour, cycling through participants sev-

eral times. At the end of the game, each persons’ score will be tallied to determine the first, second, and third place winners. Prizes in the form of gift cards will be awarded as follows: First Place \$30 to Spruce Corner Restaurant; Second Place \$20 to Oliver’s Farm Stand; Third Place \$10 to The Village Green. In order to participate, contact Evelyn Culver at 413-268-3316 or [ematkc@aol.com](mailto:ematkc@aol.com) no later than Friday, April 16. She will then provide participants with the ID and Passcode. Space is limited, so don’t delay.

## Curbside luncheon available April 13

GOSHEN — The Goshen COA will offer another curbside luncheon on Tuesday, April 13, with pickup from 11:30 a.m. to noon. The COA will be handing out a baked ham dinner or stuffed chicken breast dinner, with a yummy dessert, brought to the community by Spruce Corner Restaurant and Red’s Bakery.

The COA is asking for a \$5 donation. Please call Evelyn at 413-268-3316 for reservations before Wednesday, April 7. The COA invites seniors to meet at the town parking lot on Wednesday, April 21, at 1 p.m. to walk around, bring a chair to relax in, and have a snack. Everyone will wear their masks and sit six feet apart.

READ PAST ISSUES OF THE COUNTRY JOURNAL  
ONLINE AT: [COUNTRYJOURNAL.TURLEY.COM](http://COUNTRYJOURNAL.TURLEY.COM)





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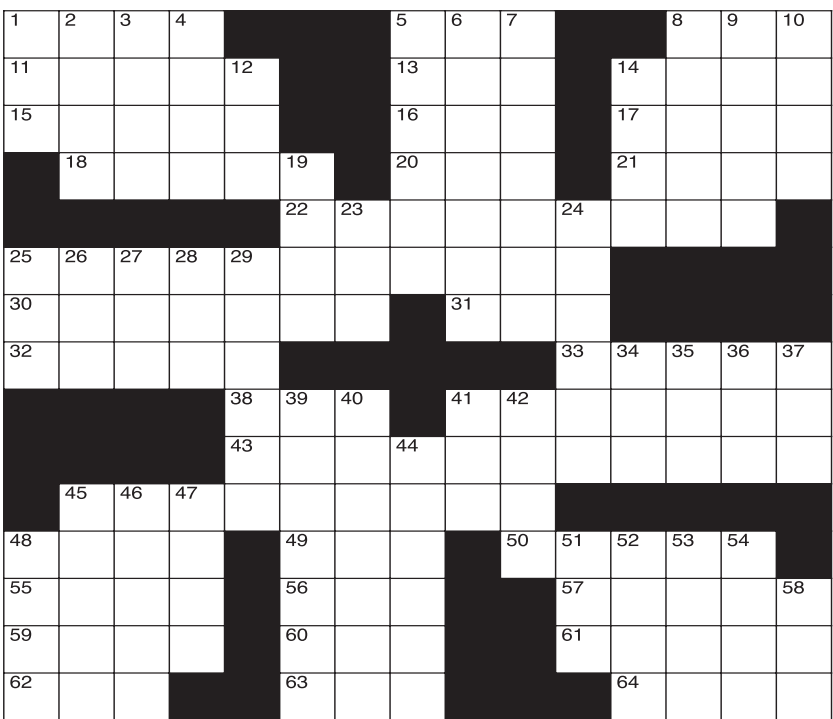
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### CLUES ACROSS

1. Now and \_\_  
5. Israeli city \_\_ Aviv  
8. Indicates near  
11. Minneapolis suburb  
13. Large Australian flightless bird  
14. Fine-grained earth  
15. Plant genus that includes water caltrop  
16. Peacock network  
17. TV writer Dunham  
18. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues  
20. They \_\_  
21. Muslim ruler title  
22. Position given in respect of  
25. Explaining further  
30. Measuring instrument  
31. Romanian monetary unit  
32. Council of \_\_, 1545-

1563  
33. Savory jelly made with meat stock  
38. Journalist Tarbell  
41. Most suspenseful  
43. Festivity  
45. Animal embryos  
48. Fertility god  
49. Medical patients' choice (abbr.)  
50. Type of sword  
55. Competition  
56. Bird of the cuckoo family  
57. Afflicted in mind or body  
59. Engineering organization  
60. Beverage receptacle  
61. Spiritual leader  
62. Doctor of Education  
63. Where golfers begin  
64. Impudence

### CLUES DOWN

1. Vietnamese offensive  
2. Fast mammal  
3. Oh goodness!  
4. The back of one's neck  
5. One who lives in another's property  
6. Involve deeply  
7. Alfalfa  
8. Tropical tree resin  
9. Sudden fear  
10. Jewish religious month  
12. Veterans battleground  
14. Musical symbol  
19. German river  
23. Paddle  
24. Lizard  
25. Shock treatment  
26. The common gibbon  
27. Brew  
28. Usually has a lid  
29. Lenses in optical instruments  
34. Time zone in

Samoa (abbr.)  
35. Wrinkled dog: Shar \_\_  
36. Denotes equal  
37. TV network for children  
39. Take the value away from  
40. Female graduates  
41. Don't know when yet  
42. " \_\_ tú": Spanish song  
44. "Seinfeld" character  
45. Bleated  
46. Entwined  
47. Away from wind  
48. Soft creamy white cheese  
51. Swiss river  
52. Prejudice  
53. Actor Idris  
54. They resist authority (slang)  
58. Speak ill of

# THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

### ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20  
Have deep conversations with those close to you as they may have something they can teach you, Aries. You will learn about yourself and those close to you in the process.

### CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22  
Success at work continues to usher in good fortune, Cancer. But you may have a tingling feeling it may be time to move on to new horizons. Think things through carefully.

### LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23  
This week shows signs of being a very busy, but fulfilling time, Libra. Even though things can get a tad overwhelming, you'll be able to work through the excitement.

### CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20  
You may have been pondering ways to advance your career, Capricorn. Don't hesitate to put plans in action, especially after they are vetted and you run them by others.

### TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21  
Close friendships have the potential to become even closer. You are focusing intently on relationships of all kinds lately. This brings you closer to those you love.

### LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23  
Leo, relax and be yourself when you meet new people. You don't need to pretend to be someone else to win others over. Start new relationships with honesty.

### SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22  
Your financial success is bound to take another step forward, Scorpio. This bodes well for the plans you have in place. Now you may be able to act on them a little ahead of schedule.

### AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18  
Aquarius, your strongest relationships are warm and supportive. This is a great time to form romantic partnerships, business relationships or personal friendships.

### GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21  
Personal growth is important for you, Gemini. It may increase others' admiration of you in the days to come. Keep up the self-improvement because it is producing results.

### VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22  
Virgo, you will propose new ideas to people around you. Don't be surprised when they want to go along with them. Simply embrace the interest and move forward.

### SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21  
Enjoy the success you have achieved over the past several weeks, Sagittarius. Even though you have been flying high, make an effort to be humble as well.

### PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20  
Everything is going great for your career, Pisces. Things may seem too good to be true. There are challenges ahead, but you can manage.

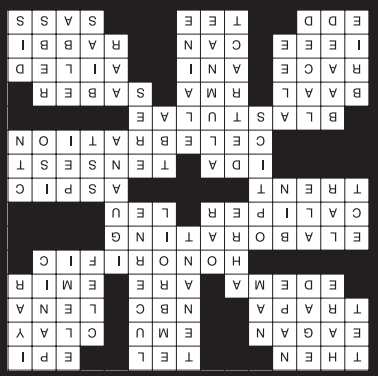


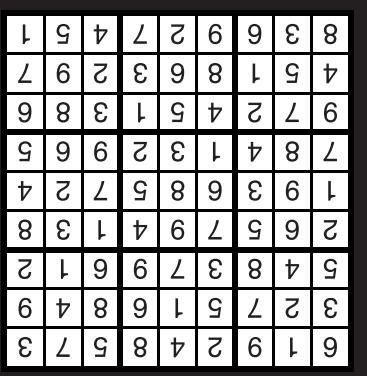
# SUDOKU

**Fun By The Numbers**  
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

**Here's How It Works:**  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

# answers





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OBITUARY

Florence Catherine Chamberlin

Florence Catherine Chamberlin passed on to our Heavenly Father on March 14, 2021.

Florence was born on Dec. 20, 1927 in Brooklyn, New York, the only child of Mabel (Reichenbach) and William Weber. She grew up in St. Albans, Queens, NY, and spent many idyllic days on Long Island Sound fishing with her parents and paternal aunts and uncles. She graduated with honors from Andrew Jackson High School where she liked to recount that basketball great Bob Cousy whispered an answer to her when she was called on in class.

She went on to attend the Browne Business School in Jamaica, NY and began her career as a private secretary for a Manhattan insurance company.

In 1950, she married Edward Vite Chamberlin, a fellow St. Albans resident and an Army Air Force veteran, her loving partner in life for 60 years. They began raising their family in 1953 in Massapequa, NY.

In 1968 at the prompting of her best friend the former Pat Keegan, and following her mother and father, Florence and her family moved to Worthington, MA. She continued to work freelance for medical professionals and eventually retired from the dental office of John Modestow, where she worked as a receptionist.



She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Worthington and served on various committees and women's associations. She was pleased to have worked for Sena's Auctions and Kendall Food Company. She was an avid reader, a great cook, enjoyed shopping and looked forward to trips to Cape Cod with her family.

Florence was perhaps best known for her masterful design and creative talents. With her mother, she opened The Gift Shop and later Storybook Hill in Worthington where she showcased her meticulously handcrafted dolls and gifts. She loved custom home décor sewing and up until her last few weeks she knitted slippers for the comfort of her friends and family.

Florence's family meant the world to her. She was a nurturing, dedicated and loving wife, mother and grandmother. She leaves her son William Chamberlin, daughter Holly Chamberlin and her beloved granddaughter Grace Chamberlin, all of Worthington. Her husband Edward predeceased her in 2010 and her son Gary predeceased her in 1993. She also leaves several nieces, nephews, cousins and her cherished sister-in-law Agnes of Archer, FL.

Gifts in memory of Florence may be made to the First Congregational Church of Worthington, 159 Huntington Road, Worthington, MA 01098.

DEATH NOTICES

CHAMBERLIN, FLORENCE CATHERINE

Died March 14, 2021

LEPAGE, RUTH

Died March 19, 2021

Service will be May 8, 2021 at noon  
Calling hours to proceed from 11 a.m. to noon  
Firtion-Adams Funeral Service

Country Journal  
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

OPINION

SECURITY

from page 5

is determined by your MAGI from two years prior, so if that inheritance money is reported on your 2021 income tax return, it would be your 2023 Medicare premium amount that would be affected. And the higher Medicare premium would self-adjust back to a lower level if MAGI for subsequent years are below the IRMAA level.

The other way your inheritance might affect you is through income taxes on your Social Security benefits. If your MAGI exceeds \$32,000 filing as married/jointly (\$25,000 if single), then 50% of your Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income. Or if your MAGI is more than \$44,000 filing as married/jointly (\$34,000 if single), then up to 85% of your Social Security benefits for the tax year will become part of your taxable income at your standard IRS tax rate.

The bottom line is this: Your gross monthly Social Security benefit amount

will not be affected by your inheritance, but if your inheritance increases your Medicare Part B premium your net SS benefit will be temporarily lower. And the inheritance may also influence how much of your Social Security benefits are subjected to income tax.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG  
Conservation Commission  
Notice Of Public Meeting

The Williamsburg Conservation Commission in accordance with MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, the Wetlands Protection Act, will hold a public meeting on **Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Williamsburg town offices, 141 Main Street, Haydenville, MA to review a Notice of Intent submitted by Ronald Hodges. The subject activity is located at 50 Ashfield Road, Williamsburg, MA.

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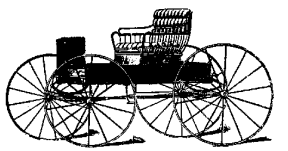
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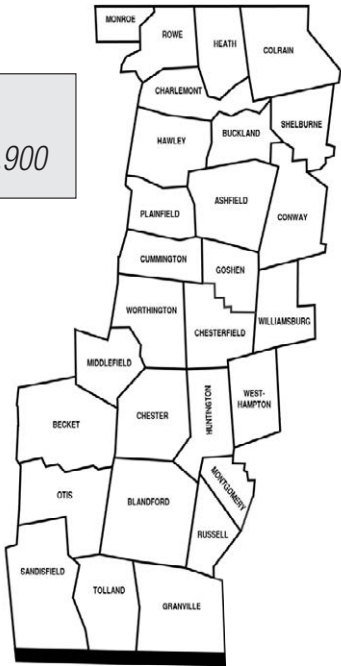
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## Classified Advertising DEADLINES

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# REGION

## Baystate Health gets nearly \$2M in federal COVID aid

Congressman Richard E. Neal joined Baystate Health President and CEO Dr. Mark A. Keroack Tuesday morning for the announcement of almost \$2 million to Baystate Health from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to continue their COVID-19 efforts.

Through FEMA's Public Assistance Program, Baystate Health will receive \$1,873,740 to ensure that resource constraints do not inhibit efforts to respond to this unprecedented pandemic. Last year, Baystate Health was the recipient of \$5,621,222 in funding of this same kind. This award provides this additional funding as a result of a cost share adjustment for Emergency Protective Measures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am so appreciative of the work that Dr. Keroack and his colleagues are doing to prevent and protect our community from the coronavirus," Neal said.

"They have and continue to take herculean steps to stop the virus and while it took a significant financial toll on Baystate, they have never slowed down.

This funding will ensure that they have the resources they need to continue to serve our most vulnerable."

Keroack praised Neal for his commitment to helping the hospital system during the pandemic.

"As chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, Congressman Neal over the past year has played a key role in the nation's fight against the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. He has never wavered in his support of the 1st congressional district and has continued to work tirelessly on behalf of his constituents and Baystate Health to address the serious financial pressures facing us and every individual as part of the pandemic," Keroack said.

"Congressman Neal's efforts have not only provided financial assistance to Baystate Health during the crisis, but he has been crucial in obtaining much-needed PPE for our healthcare workers, as well as addressing the need for testing materials and vaccinations. His help in securing additional aid for Baystate from FEMA comes at a critical time as western Massachusetts braces for a third surge of the virus."

## COVID testing at HCC extended through June

**HOLYOKE** – Even though infection rates have been dropping and vaccinations are becoming more readily available, free "Stop the Spread" COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended through June 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college's main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

Wait times for tests are not nearly as long as they used to be, according to site administrators, with only a handful of vehicles lined up at the busiest times.

HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since last summer to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and

parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

Please note: Testing may sometimes be canceled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations:

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>



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